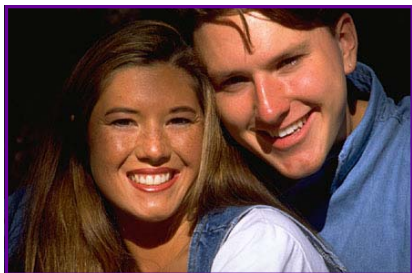


Have I discussed having children with my partner?

- Does my partner want to have children? Have we discussed children?
- Do we have a good strong relationship to give a child a happy home?
- Are we both ready to devote our time and energy into raising a child?
- Are we willing to share our love with a child without being jealous?
- What would happen to the child if my partner and I separated, or if one of us died?
- Have my partner and I discussed religious beliefs, working, family, future goals? Does a child fit into our future?
- What if my partner doesn't want children and I do? Whose decision is it?
- Which one of these questions needs the most discussion?



*Panhandle Health
District offices are ready to
serve you in each of the five
northern counties of Idaho*

Kootenai County
8500 N. Atlas Road
Hayden ID 83835
208 415-5100

Bonner County
1020 Michigan
Sandpoint ID 83864
208 263-5159

Boundary County
7402 Caribou
Bonners Ferry ID 83805
208 267-5558

Benewah County
711 Jefferson
St. Maries ID 83861
208 245-4556

Shoshone County
114 W Riverside
Kellogg ID 83837
208 786-7474

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Do I Have What It Takes To Be A Parent?



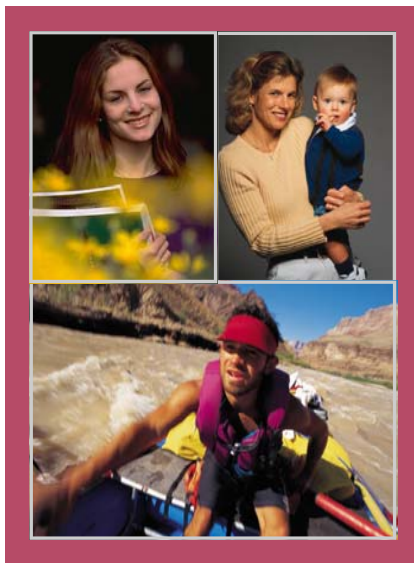
**Some thoughtful questions
about one of the most
important decisions you'll
ever make.**



Panhandle Health District
Healthy People in Healthy Communities

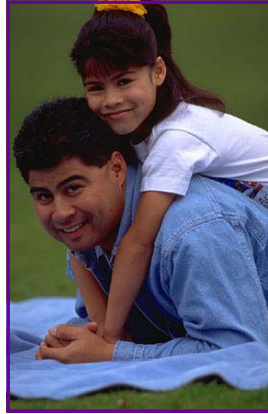
Will raising a child fit into my lifestyle?

- ◇ What do I want out of life—what is important to me?
- ◇ Could I raise a child and work at the same time? Would I have time and energy for both?
- ◇ Am I willing to give up the freedom to do what I want, when I want? Would I miss my free time and privacy?
- ◇ Can I afford the costs of raising a child? Do I know how much it takes?
- ◇ Would I have to move to a bigger home?
- ◇ Would a child interfere with my growth and development? Would it interfere with my educational plans?



What are my expectations?

- ◇ Do I like doing things children like?
- ◇ Do I enjoy children's activities?
- ◇ Would I expect my child to be like me?
- ◇ What values would I share with my child.
- ◇ Would I expect my child to do the things I wish I had done when I was a child?
- ◇ Would I expect my child to keep me from getting lonely, or take care of me when I get old?
- ◇ Do I want a boy or a girl? Would I be happy with either one?
- ◇ Would having a child prove my maturity to others?
- ◇ Do I expect a child to bring me happiness?
Do I expect the child to make me happy?
- ◇ Do I expect my child to be perfect?



Things I need to know about raising children.

- ◇ Do I like children? When I am around them, how do I feel? Would I like having one around all the time?
- ◇ Do I enjoy interacting with children? Teaching them things?
- ◇ Would I be able to communicate with a child?
- ◇ Can I give a child the love he or she would need from me? Would this be easy for me?
- ◇ Am I patient enough to deal with the needs of children, the chaos it brings and the 24-hour-per-day responsibility of children?
- ◇ Do I lose my temper easily? Would I take things out on my child if I lost my temper?
- ◇ How would I handle disciplining my child? Would I be too strict or not strict enough?
- ◇ How would I take care of my child's health and safety?
- ◇ What if I have a child and find out I made a wrong decision?

